

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 315

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the members of J4 upon winning “The Singing Family Face Off” on the CBS Early Show.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as artists of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, four such noteworthy individuals are siblings Jessi, Jedidiah, Josiah, and Josephine Smith of Bluff City, who together comprise the band J4, which recently won “The Singing Family Face Off” on the CBS Early Show; and

WHEREAS, sons and daughters of Mark and Lori Smith, the members of J4 range from seven to fifteen years of age; the eldest two play instruments in church services at the Bunker Hill Christian Church, where their father serves as the pastor; and

WHEREAS, all four of the siblings are classically trained; seven-year-old Josephine plays the keyboard; eight-year-old Josiah plays the violin and the guitar and sings backup; thirteen-year-old Jedidiah plays the drums and piano; and fifteen-year-old Jessi plays the guitar and the violin and sings; and

WHEREAS, Lori Smith home schools all four of the children, each of whom is extraordinarily musically inclined and has devoted countless hours to honing these abilities; and

WHEREAS, “The Singing Family Face Off” began with more than 700 family bands sending submission videos to the CBS Early Show, each aspiring to win a contract with CBS Records; and

WHEREAS, of those 700, only six bands were chosen to come to New York City and perform live on the Early Show; J4 was one of the selected bands for competitive part of the contest; and

WHEREAS, during their debut on the Early Show's "Singing Family Face Off," J4 performed Mary Mary's song "Shackles," which garnered more than two-thirds of the audience votes, advancing them to the next round of the competition; and

WHEREAS, during the second round, J4 competed against two other singing families, the Peay family and the Oswald Brothers; celebrities David Cassidy, Kathy Sledge, Jermaine Dupri, and Tanisha Scott stood as judges of this portion of the competition; and

WHEREAS, inundating David Cassidy with memories of his career start, J4 performed the song "I Think I Love You," originally sung by David Cassidy and The Partridge Family; and

WHEREAS, after this head-to-head performance and several trips to New York City, J4 earned a spot as one of the final two family bands and was asked to return to New York City once more to perform on the Early Show with the other finalist, the Peays; and

WHEREAS, in a true display of both bands' outstanding character, the Peays and J4 performed their final song together, wowing their audience with a rousing rendition of "Dancing in the Street" by Martha Reeves and the Vandellas; and

WHEREAS, after this final performance, CBS Records Executive Vice President and General Manager Larry Jenkins announced that, in a close polling, the winner of the competition and of a contract with CBS Records was J4; and

WHEREAS, Josephine, Josiah, Jedidiah, and Jessi performed in the "Singing Family Face Off" with exemplary skill and commendable character, working toward a common goal, experiencing victory as a family and bringing great pride to the State of Tennessee, and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Josephine, Josiah, Jedidiah, and Jessie Smith, collectively known as J4, upon winning "The Singing Family Face Off" and being awarded a contract with CBS Records.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our best wishes for J4's every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.